

## INFECTION PREVENTION & CONTROL SERVICE

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# Why am I being Nursed in Isolation?

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### What is Isolation?

Isolation of a patient in a single room is used as a method of keeping an infection from spreading.

### Why am I in Isolation?

You are being placed in isolation because:

- You may have infections that can spread to others, or
- You may catch infections easily.

We want to avoid the spread of infections in hospital. Please ask your Nurse / Doctor to explain how this affects you and your visitors, family and whanau.

### Micro-organisms which cause infection can be carried on:

- Hands
- Clothing
- Equipment
- Body fluids
- Food and liquids
- Air

### Your care while in Isolation

To prevent the spread of infection, we need to take special precautions when caring for you. Staff who touch or treat you (care for you directly) may wear:

- Mask
- Gown or apron
- Disposable gloves

## **Handwashing**

Clean hands are extremely important to prevent the spread of infection.

Use:

- Alcohol based hand gels
- Liquid soap and water

All staff and visitors must wash their hands:

- Before / on entering your room
- Before / after giving you care
- On leaving your room

## **Your Visitors**

Your visitors should report to the ward or unit office before entering your room.

There will be a sign placed on your door explaining to staff and your visitors what they need to wear or do while in your room.

Show this pamphlet to your relatives and friends to help them understand our isolation procedures.

We ask that you remain in your room while in isolation. For some tests, you may need to leave your room. Prior to going for any tests, staff will explain any isolation precautions that must be taken while you are out of the isolation room.

## **Please note:**

For some patients, isolation may cause:

- Increased loneliness
- Negative emotional effects

Feel free to talk with the staff caring for you, they can help you deal with these feelings.

**Any further questions? Please ask staff on ward**

**This information is also available as a pamphlet by ordering via supply using the Reference Number: 0106.**